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Summary record of the 29th meeting
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President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (E/2016/56)

1. **Ms. Petrova** (Acting Secretary, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the annual overview report of the Chief Executives Board for 2015 (E/2016/56) and updating the Council on the key coordination activities undertaken by the Board in 2015 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, said that the Board had contributed to the preparation of that Agenda by focusing on ways to deepen collaboration and enhance coherence across the United Nations system. It had established a set of common principles to provide guidance to the United Nations system in its support of Member States throughout the transition to and implementation of the integrated sustainable development agenda. The Board had also intensified its efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration with regard to specific sustainable development objectives and targets.

2. Considering that twenty years after the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth, youth employment remained a major global development challenge, the Board had endorsed the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, which built on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth and aimed to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Seven United Nations agencies had formed a team to advance the operationalization of the Initiative, and the United Nations Development Group had already begun work on a guidance note for country-level action.

3. The Board had endorsed a United Nations system-wide approach to the utilization of new and emerging technologies and sources of data, in support of Member States' activities. The United Nations system data catalogue, a project developed under the auspices of the High-level Committee on Management, enhanced the public accessibility of United Nations system data and promoted open data among United Nations system organizations, thereby helping Member States in their decision-making.

4. In preparation for the 2030 Agenda, the Board had reviewed the implementation of six Millennium Development Goals in 16 countries and the Pacific island region. That review had helped to reinforce and improve coordination and coherence, and to increase harmonization and sharing of good practices. An equally flexible approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be necessary.

5. The Board's three subsidiary bodies, namely the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group, had continued to work closely together to strengthen system-wide coordination. The High-level Committee on Programmes had pursued system-wide coordination efforts in support of additional Sustainable Development Goal targets and revised the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. That Plan of Action emphasized local engagement and sought to ensure that the United Nations system was responsive to various country needs and contexts relating to disaster risk reduction. The Committee had also prepared a United Nations system input for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and a joint statement promoting an innovative, people-centred approach to sustainable urbanization, to be delivered at the Conference.

6. The Board had issued a joint statement to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As an additional contribution to that conference, the working group on climate change of the High-level Committee on Programmes had coordinated several side events, facilitated a "One United Nations" exhibition on key issues, and made available an updated compilation of the most recent and relevant United Nations publications on climate change, both on the Internet and in the form of sustainably sourced USB drives. In 2016, the Committee had approved a set of common core principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action.

7. With regard to operational matters, the United Nations Development Group had continued to afford the highest priority to the coherent implementation of

the quadrennial comprehensive policy review across the United Nations system, with a particular focus on, inter alia, roll-out of the standard operating procedures in support of country teams and improvements in the Resident Coordinator system, national capacity development, development effectiveness and improved functioning of the United Nations development system. The Group had also established a task team to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the Organization's operational activities. The team had begun a mapping exercise of good practices, a compilation of which had been published and was available through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

8. The High-Level Committee on Management had continued to give particular priority to the harmonization and simplification of business practices. It had, for example, started developing harmonized procurement guidance and continued to simplify vendor registration, leading to an increase in vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; adopted a collaboration clause that allowed all participating United Nations system organizations to accept the outcome of another organization's procurement process, thereby avoiding duplication of internal processes; and supported the establishment of common banking agreements, which were expected to streamline banking and treasury services and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization's operations.

9. **Mr. Randin** (Switzerland) said that the Board's mandate to promote system-wide coherence and coordination, eliminate duplication and increase efficacy was all the more important in the light of the 2030 Agenda. Noting that the report was descriptive in nature and lacked detail on decisions taken and potential follow-up actions, he asked whether the Board had developed an action plan with targets and practical, results-based management working methods for the next couple of years.

10. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the efforts of the Board to foster innovative, pragmatic and effective solutions that enhanced United Nations system-wide coordination and performance. The core principles agreed by the Board's dedicated working group on the Sustainable Development Goals would help to reduce duplication and accelerate progress towards implementing the new development agenda. The data catalogue project would provide stakeholders with key information that would assist in their implementation efforts. Her delegation hoped that the regular reviews of country-level implementation of the Millennium Development Goals carried out by the Board and the World Bank would serve as a model of integrated coordination in efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. The updates to the Resident Coordinator competency framework and the new performance management system were a welcome development, in that they would help to enhance the collaboration, accountability and performance of United Nations country teams and their leaders. Lastly, the United States commended all the organizations of the United Nations system for fully implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, a critical benchmark that would allow the system to retain its credibility among donors and programme countries by holding it to the highest levels of accountability and transparency.

12. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) enquired whether the Board had discussed the need to take into account the new legal framework established by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He would also like to know how the Board intended to improve coordination in order to avoid duplication of effort and overlap in mandates.

13. **Ms. Petrova** (Acting Director, United Nations Chief Executives Board) said that the mandate of the Board's mandate was to align at a strategic level the work of the United Nations system in implementing the directives of Member States. The Board was not a decision-making entity; it only reaffirmed mandates and acted as a coordinating mechanism to ensure that those directives were followed. While the Board's annual overview report by definition could not provide the level of detail on actions taken or the tangible targets requested by the representatives of Switzerland and Chile, there were numerous networks and subgroups whose operations could be described in intricate detail.

14. The Board's three subsidiary bodies had published their highly detailed strategic work plans on their respective websites. For instance, the working group on climate change had been developing specific targets for several years, while a working group on risk management within the United Nations system would engage United Nations entities and define targets for

risk-informed decision-making throughout the system. Those and many other initiatives were well documented in the work plans of each specific group.

15. With regard to adjustments to the 2030 Agenda, the Board had decided to focus more on issues-based approaches. By and large, management work followed the same model, with specific targets in place to establish system-wide agreements on procurement, treasury and other areas of work. As the Board's members were themselves heads of organizations with reporting requirements and governing bodies of their own, they had to make sure that they aligned themselves with the mandates given by Member States. The focus of the Board's work was to address three types of issues: follow-up to international conferences and international initiatives that it was mandated to support; emerging issues that flowed out of decisions made by Member States; and global realities, such as migration. The Board did not have a predetermined workplan, because its work consisted of follow-up and mandated activities relating to such matters.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits
(E/FFDF/2016/3)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

16. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the inaugural session of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2016/3) and to transmit the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations contained therein to the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

17. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

18. **The President** said that the informal consultations on the venue and dates of future sessions of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters were ongoing and that the outcome would be announced in the next coordination and management meeting of the Council in July.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.